

Claims

1. A communications system comprising:
a first server having an electronic mail (e-mail) database for managing
5 e-mail accounts, for storing radio device addresses associated with those
accounts, and for storing electronic mail messages associated with those
accounts wherein each message has a header and text;

10 a gateway connecting the first server to a two-way radio network;
a radio device having a electronic messaging application, the radio
device being capable of two-way communication over the two-way radio
network;
wherein the first server comprises message handling software
15 arranged to send, to the radio device, a portion of a message of a
predetermined size, including a header portion and a text portion.

16 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the radio device comprises a message
generator and transmitter for generating a command and transmitting the
command to the server over the two-way radio network to request a further
portion of the text.

17 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the first server maintains a database of
e-mail messages associated with e-mail account identifiers and the radio
network comprises a second server maintaining a database of paging
messages associated with pager addresses, and wherein the first server
22 maintains a table correlating e-mail account identifiers with pager addresses.

18 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the radio devices comprises means for
entering a filter parameter and sending a message to the first server including
the filter parameter.

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5. The system of claim 4, wherein the first server maintains filtering rules for selecting messages to be fed to the radio device according to a filtering parameter received from the radio device.

5 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the radio devices comprises means for entering a message length parameter and sending a message to the first server including the message length parameter.

10 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the first server maintains a message portion handling routine for feeding portions of messages to the radio device truncated in length according to the message length parameter.

15 8. The system of claim 1 wherein the first server further comprises means for generating a notification message for sending over the two-way radio network to a radio device having a given radio device address when a message is received at the server addressed to an e-mail account corresponding to that address.

20 9. A radio device having a control circuit and memory and, stored in the control circuit and memory, instructions and data which cause the control circuit to generate commands and send the commands over a radio network to a server, wherein the commands include commands to:

25 cause the server to feed messages to the radio device, and for a selected message, cause the server to send more of the selected message to the radio device.

10. A communications system comprising:

 a private server to which one or more local terminals are couplable by wireline connection, the private server having an electronic mail (e-mail) database for managing e-mail accounts, for storing radio device addresses 5 associated with those accounts, and for storing electronic mail messages associated with those accounts wherein each message has a header and text;

 a gateway connecting the private server to a public two-way radio network;

10 a radio device having a electronic messaging application, the radio device being capable of two-way communication over the public two-way radio network;

 wherein the server comprises message handling software arranged to:

15 (a) generate a notification message for sending over the public two-way radio network to a radio device having a given radio device address when a message is received at the server addressed to an e-mail account corresponding to that address; and

 (b) send, to the radio device, a portion of the message of a predetermined size, including a header portion and a text portion.

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